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Labour scores high over Tories
LONDON (R) — Britain's opposition Labour Party has emerged as the biggest opinion poll lead over the ruling Conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher since she came to power nearly 11 years ago. A poll in the Sunday Times shows Labour a record 77 points ahead at 51 per cent and the Conservatives at 24 per cent. The poll lead would give Labour leader Neil Kinnock a 120-seat majority in parliament at a general election. "This growing lead not only demonstrates the deepening hostility to the Tories (Conservatives) but also the public's increasing belief in Labour's capacity to form an alternative government," a Labour Party spokesman said. Labour has maintained a lead in the polls during nearly a year of spiralling interest and mortgage rates which have reached 15 per cent or above, hitting households' loan repayments. Thatcher is also coming under increasing attack, even by her own supporters, for introducing a new local tax, the community charge, as a means of raising money for the government. The government's policy of selling off public assets has also been criticised for overvaluing.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية والرأي

Palestinian killed in W. Bank
OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Masked assailants Saturday shot dead a West Bank Arab suspected of helping Israel, military sources said. The victim was shot in the occupied West Bank town of Ramallah, north of Jerusalem. He died in hospital from his wounds. Palestinian officials said the Arab was killed by 197 fellow Arabs during the 26-month-old uprising. The main targets have been alleged informers and Arabs suspected of ties with drug dealing and prostitution. Israeli soldiers and civilians have killed 625 Arabs, and 44 Jews have died in the unrest. In Gaza City, troops shot and wounded seven Palestinians in clashes with stone-throwers, hospitals said. The army clamped curfews on two Gaza City neighbourhoods on the adjoining Shati refugee camp, residents said.

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Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

PAC sees unity with ANC

DAR ES SALAAM (R) — A leader of a radical group which broke away from the African National Congress (ANC) in 1959 said Saturday that the two organisations were close to reaching an agreement following the release of Nelson Mandela. "We hope we will be mature enough to resolve this issue. We are addressing it and we are not far from reaching a solution," Joseph Rencore, a leader of the recently formed internal wing of the now legalised Pan Africanist Congress (PAC), added. The PAC broke away from the ANC saying its 1955 freedom charter offered too many concessions to whites and deprived blacks of their full rights.



A scene from the Arab Cooperation Council summit in Amman Saturday (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

Sudan rebels claim capture of outpost

NAIROBI (R) — Rebels in southern Sudan said Saturday they had captured a military outpost near the besieged southern city of Juba, killing six soldiers and capturing two trucks. The radio of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) said rebel forces captured the outpost known as Bridge 40 on the main road from Juba to Yei, shortly after dawn Saturday after fierce fighting. The army garrison at Yei, 150 kilometres southwest of Juba, has been under siege by the SPLA since mid-January.

11 agreements signed; next conference in Baghdad in October

ACC summit ends; results 'positive'

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Leaders of the four-member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) ended their summit here Saturday, one day ahead of schedule, but having achieved the objectives which they set for their conference. A senior Jordanian official described the talks among the leaders of Iraq, North Yemen, Egypt and Jordan as "brotherly, positive and fruitful." The summit achieved "its goals in full, and there was agreement that the conference could end Saturday evening instead of Sunday, since

it was possible to tackle the agenda and sign the accords in one day," the official said. The summit held its final session Saturday evening at 7 p.m., seven hours after His Majesty King Hussein opened the gathering and took over the chairmanship of the council. In a statement read out at the final session, ACC Secretary-General Hilmi Nammur said the four leaders had endorsed 11 cooperation agreements. The concerned ministers of the four countries formalised the agreement by signing them at the televised session. The agreements cover cooperation in the ACC states in

science and technology, planning, industry, oil and gas, tourism, local administration and municipal affairs, health services, meteorology, air transport and civil aviation, maritime transport, and religious affairs. The next summit will be held in Baghdad in October, the King announced in his final statement to the conference. The senior Jordanian official who spoke to the Jordan Times dismissed speculation that "differences" among the participants of the summit were the cause for cutting short the duration of the conference. "The truth of the matter is that President Ali

Abdullah Saleh (of North Yemen) had to leave early for home to attend to an official matter there, and all the leaders agreed that, since the agenda could be covered in full on Saturday, the conference could be closed Saturday night." There was talk earlier that a scolding attack launched by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein against American policy and what he described as unlimited U.S. support for Israel and its policies had "upset" the Egyptian delegation "which felt itself under pressure from such open criticism against an ally with which Cairo maintains close relations."

However, Egyptian and other Arab sources dismissed the talk as "not valid." The four leaders "conducted their deliberations in a brotherly and open atmosphere," the sources said, some of them bearing the story on the "differences" for the first time. "Everything is going well," one Egyptian official said. In his closing statement to the conference the King said he had hoped that the leaders of the ACC countries could stay for a longer period of time so that Jordan could accord them a greater measure of hospitality. But

Political statement

FOLLOWING is an unofficial translation of the highlights of a political statement issued by the four leaders of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) at the conclusion of their one-day summit here Saturday: The leaders of the four-member Arab Cooperation Council Saturday stressed the need to halt the influx of Soviet Jewish immigrants to Palestine which constitutes a flagrant violation of international law and human rights and an open aggression against the rights of the Palestinian people and a threat to the Arab Order and current efforts for peace in the Middle East. His Majesty King Hussein, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh said that the Soviet Union and the United States bear a special responsibility towards this issue and therefore put an end to the emigration of Jews from the Soviet Union to the occupied territories. The four Arab leaders said the ACC countries take pride in the heroic struggle being waged by the Palestinian people against Israel. The four leaders look with pride at the ongoing struggle of the oppressed people and their intifada, which is now in its third year, and voice their full support for the Palestinian people's legitimate rights to self-determination and independent statehood on their national soil. The ACC leaders emphasised the need to convene an international peace conference under United Nations auspices to achieve a just and durable settlement to the Arab-Israeli

Huge drug haul in fruit-seller's car

MILAN (AP) — Police have seized 85 kilograms of pure Turkish heroin in a Sicilian fruit vendor's car in Milan, authorities announced Saturday. The authorities put the value of the drug at \$83 million. After police arrested the fruit dealer, whom they identified as Francesco Palmieri, 53, Friday evening, they went to his house where his son had barricaded himself inside, the Italian news agency ANSA reported. After forcing their way in, police arrested the 24-year-old son, Daniel Palmieri, a truck driver, ANSA reported.

King: Despite crises, Jordan remains steadfast

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday described the massive influx of Soviet Jewish emigrants to Israel as "a new and most dangerous dimension" to the Arab-Israeli conflict, and called for a united Arab stand to deal with the issue as well as other threats facing the Arab World. The King, addressing the opening session of the first anniversary summit of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), also underlined the need to formulate an Arab strategy to deal with the sweeping changes in world politics, particularly the end to the cold war.

The Arab World faces the option of either being part of the international developments and "employ them to enhance its existence, stability and growth or to be on the periphery of these developments and so become a prey that is mercilessly leeches and discarded without having gained any benefit," the King told the leaders of Iraq, Egypt and North Yemen. The King referred to the now-war-no-peace situation in the Gulf after eight years of war between Iran and Iraq, and reaffirmed total support for Baghdad's initiatives to arrive at a negotiated settlement with Iran. "Unfortunately, these initiatives have not met a favourable response from the other side, and

Egypt awaits peace move from Washington

By Nermeen Murad Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Egypt is ready to work in full concert with Jordan to heal inter-Arab differences, including the rift between Iraq and Syria, prior to setting up a joint Arab front to confront common challenges, two senior Egyptian officials said Saturday. "We join our hands with His Majesty King Hussein to see whether there is common ground that will be sufficient to create a united Arab front that would be a front for peace, for stability and security throughout the region," said Osama Al Baz, political advisor to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid also expressed Cairo's total support of King Hussein's efforts towards achieving Arab unity and cited a statement by the Egyptian president at the opening session of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) summit here Saturday as reaffirmation of this support. Mubarak told the summit session that Egypt "completely supports Jordan" against any developments or threats endangering the Kingdom's stability and the unity of its people.

that Egypt intends to work with Jordan towards clearing the Arab atmosphere, which, he said, was being "spoiled" by the Syrian-Israeli rift. Baz called on all Arab states to "join ranks and to forget about their differences because (the differences) are minor compared to the threats we face from the outside." He said that Arab leaders were concerned over Israel's settlement of Soviet Jewish immigrants in the occupied Arab territories because "it would encourage extremists in Israel to achieve their aims of what they call 'transfer'."

He added that Israeli settlements in the occupied territories would also result in the "negotiation of the rights of the Palestinian people to live" in the occupied territories. According to Baz, who is widely described as Egypt's Middle East policy architect, the continuation of Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine would "destabilise the entire region and prevent the peace process from taking its course."

Water and food security tops ACC concern — Qasem

By Mariam Shahin Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The member countries of the Arab Cooperative Council (ACC) regard the security of their water resources as one of the most important issues facing them today. Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem said Saturday. "Since the ACC countries import 80 per cent of their food needs, food security for the Arab Nation is of utmost importance and water is necessary to guarantee the improvement of our agricultural potential," Qasem said. "Water is a number one priority for the ACC member states."

Addressing a press conference after the conclusion of the ACC summit here, Qasem, the official spokesman for the conference, said: "Food is a weapon that was used against countries which were not able to become self-sufficient in food production and we saw how Dr. Kissinger used this in the 1970s."

Honecker said to have fortune

HAMBURG (R) — East German prosecutors suspect former Communist leader Erich Honecker amassed a huge private fortune during his years in power, the West German magazine Der Spiegel reported Saturday. It said Honecker, ousted last October, appropriated 75 million marks (\$45 million) in 1989 alone. The money, paid by West Germany to "buy" the release of political prisoners, was lodged in an account to which only Honecker had access, the magazine said.

Saudi Arabia bans British beef

NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Arabia Saturday banned British cattle imports because of the outbreak of "mad cow" disease in Britain, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said. "We have informed the ministry of trade... of the ban on importing British cattle until they are proven free of 'mad cow' disease," SPA quoted a statement by the Ministry of Water Resources and Agriculture as saying. It did not give the level of Saudi imports of British cattle. The statement said all responsible authorities had been provided with information about the disease, bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), so they could take precautions.

Israel 'will never accept Palestinian right to return'

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — A senior aide to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir Saturday dismissed a message from Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat on peace talks and said Israel would never accept the return of Palestinian refugees.

Israeli doves interpreted the statement as a softening by the PLO, which has previously said the right of return was not negotiable. "We don't want to discuss any right of return... it is tantamount to the disappearance of Israel," Avi Pazner, Shamir's media adviser, told a reporter. Arafat's letter also said the PLO supported Arabs from the occupied territories taking part in peace talks with Israel. But Pazner said: "The government is not interested in the PLO

position. They are not a partner in negotiations with Israel, therefore what they say is irrelevant." Israel regards the PLO as a terrorist group, but Egypt has been consulting it on efforts to convene Israeli-Palestinian peace talks in Cairo. In Washington, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens failed Friday to arrange a preliminary meeting prior to the proposed Cairo talks, but left the impression of eventual success. "It was a very constructive and

hopefully a very productive meeting," Baker said after talking to Arens alone for 30 minutes in his State Department office. Arens agreed, saying "we had a good constructive conversation."

He said that Iraq and Syria had been severely affected by Turkey's temporary shutdown in the flow of the Euphrates river earlier this year and that it was the duty of all Arab countries to safeguard Arab water rights. On other issues facing the ACC and the rest of the Arab World and tackled by the council summit here, Qasem stressed the need for Arab unity in a world with an increasing number of regional blocks. He said the actual role or power of any Arab state, regardless of its size or wealth, stood little chance against a world that increasingly presents itself in regional groupings and alliances.

The Middle East peace process, he said, was advanced by moves by the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Arab countries and protect them."

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Syrian gunboat attack on Cypriot ferry kills 1, injures 15

LARNACA (AP) — A Syrian gunboat opened fire on a passenger ferry travelling between this East Mediterranean island and the Lebanese port of Jounieh Saturday, killing one passenger, crew members said.

Fifteen passengers were wounded, four critically, they said.

The British Royal Air Force (RAF) evacuated 15 of the wounded by winching them aboard three helicopters several hours before the ship docked at Larnaca at 1 p.m. (1100 GMT).

The wounded, most suffering cuts and burns in the legs from shrapnel, were rushed to local hospitals for treatment.

The dead man was identified as Nasser Abu Nasr, 26, who was going to Lebanon to pick up his pregnant wife because he had just obtained an emigration visa to Canada.

"He was hit by shrapnel all over his body," said 22-year-old Rima Suleiman, a receptionist on the boat.

"He was sitting facing the bar exactly facing where a shell hit." The shellfire also started a fire on board which was extinguished, the crew said.

At least 20 holes were visible in the starboard (right) side of the ship when it docked, and shattered pipes throughout the ship leaked water.

One of the shells went through a window on the central deck housing the bar and the cafeteria,

causing most of the casualties as passengers sheltered there, said third officer Andreas Michaelis.

He said the ship was attacked three separate times within an hour, starting around 4 a.m. (0200 GMT) when it was 30 kilometres west of Jounieh.

Crew members said the sailors on board the 50-metre-long gunboat fired warning shots over the ferry and then hailed it in Syrian-accented Arabic.

The name Aoudah was visible on the side of the ship as it circled the ferry and it was flying a Syrian flag, they said.

"They asked us who was on board and where we were going," said Egyptian mechanic Mohammad Muhammad Al Murshidi, 27. He said he talked with them over the radio because most of the crew spoke only Greek or English.

Michaelis said the Baroness M started to turn around after the warning shots, and the gunboat returned 10 minutes later and fired the first salvo at the ferry.

He said the fire appeared concentrated just below the bridge at the captain's quarters, which were wrecked.

The gunboat attacked a third time about 20 minutes later when

the Baroness M was headed back toward Larnaca, Michaelis said, sending shells into the passenger areas.

Crew member Danny Zarour said the gunboat "peppered the side of the ship with shells."

"When the Baroness M radioed for help for the wounded passengers, the Syrian boat hauled down its flag," Zarour said.

"Pandemonium reigned on board," added Michaelis.

"We ran from one side of the boat to the other as the gunboat circled," Suleiman said.

Nora Kasbari, spokesman for Socomar, agents for the ship, said it carried 64 passengers and 52 crew members. The boat had left Larnaca at 11 p.m. (2100 GMT) Friday for the seven-hour trip to Jounieh, 200 kilometres east.

The RAF answered the distress call, dropping two doctors and a medical team on board to sedate the wounded.

Flight Lt. Dick Bardon said the helicopters hovered above the ship for an hour while the operation was completed. One passenger was too seriously wounded to be lifted off the ship's deck, he said.

The RAF maintains a major base at Akrotiri on the southern coast of Cyprus.

One French passenger on the boat said he did not hear a thing, waking up only when the boat returned to Larnaca.

The boat, one of two that

travels to Lebanon from Cyprus, is a main escape route for Christians in embattled Lebanon, many currently fleeing from the army-militia confrontation that erupted on Jan. 30.

Army Commander Gen. Michel Aoun has been fighting for three weeks for control of the Christian enclave with the Lebanese Forces (LF) under Samir Geagea.

The port of Jounieh is controlled by the Lebanese Forces, which also has a share in the ferry operations. Four gunboats of the Lebanese Navy escaped from Jounieh port when Geagea's forces attacked the navy base at the start of the fighting on Jan. 30.

The four boats, which remained loyal to Aoun, were reported in the waters between Lebanon and Cyprus. The Lebanese coast is also patrolled regularly by the Syrian and Israeli navies.

The captain and crew of the ship had been reluctant to take it into Jounieh because of the risks involved in the ongoing fighting.

The ferry service and other maritime traffic came under fire repeatedly during six months of fighting in Lebanon in 1989 between Aoun and the Syrian army with their Lebanese militia allies.

The ferries were not hit, but at least eight ships were sunk or set on fire, including small boats taking passengers out to the ferry waiting off shore.

Syria optimistic over release of hostages

DAMASCUS (AP) — Information Minister Mohammad Salmaan said Saturday that statements from Iran and Lebanon have given Syria "great hope" that Western hostages in Lebanon will be released.

He told Peggy Say, sister of U.S. hostage Terry Anderson: "We're optimistic for the release at a time when we hear statements by the Iranians and an official in Lebanon."

But he cautioned Mrs. Say that a hostage release may not be imminent.

"The matter requires careful study and patience as well as coordination of efforts with international and local parties. We are following this road," he said.

Salmaan's optimism stemmed from a statement made Friday in Beirut by Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah, the most influential Shi'ite Muslim cleric in Lebanon, who called for a new approach to free the hostages.

Fadlallah, who recently returned from a visit to Tehran where he met senior Iranian leaders, spoke the day after an editorial in the Tehran Times, which usually reflects the thinking of President Hashemi Rafsanjani, called for the hostages to be freed. It was the first time an Iranian newspaper has made such a statement.

"We have to think of finding realistic and humanitarian means to free the foreign hostages," Fadlallah said in a sermon.

The hostage issue "has been widely exploited by Western forces to harm the image of Muslims," Fadlallah said.

He is the spiritual guide to the Iranian-aligned Hizbollah, or Party of God, which is believed to be an umbrella for groups holding most of the 18 Westerners missing in Lebanon.

They are eight Americans, four Britons, two West Germans, two Swiss, an Irishman and an Italian.

The longest held is Anderson, 42, chief Middle East correspondent of the Associated Press. He was kidnapped in mainly Shi'ite west Beirut on March 16, 1985.

Salmaan told Mrs. Say, in Damascus on her fifth mission to the Middle East seeking word of her brother and other hostages:

"We have great hope now that we can work with all concerned to secure the release of the hostages."

He said that earlier statements from Iran and Shi'ite leaders in Lebanon about a possible hostage release "were not made in such a serious manner."

Salmaan was the second Syrian minister to express optimism to Mrs. Say, who is on a tour meeting with world leaders including Pope John Paul II, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat, and the Archbishop of Canterbury, Robert Runcie.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa told her Thursday that the Tehran Times editorial was "a good sign" and that he was going to visit Tehran soon and "work intensively with Iranian leaders" for the hostages' release.

Salmaan echoed Sharaa's belief that a hostage release will be difficult before the chaotic situation in Lebanon has been resolved.

He said the United States could play a more important role than any other country in bringing this about.

Syria, with 40,000 troops in Lebanon, is the main power broker in that country. The Syrians have been instrumental in securing the release of some Western hostages over the last five years and played a role in other releases. Syria is Iran's main ally in the region.

Salmaan said Syria "would be proud if we were able to secure release of any hostage regardless of his nationality."

He said Syria is categorically opposed to kidnapping.

"Neither Terry Anderson nor any other hostage is responsible for the problems of the area. And kidnapping cannot solve these problems," Salmaan said.

Mrs. Say told him: "I know in my heart that Syria's conviction to gain the release of the hostages is total."

She said she hoped a hostage release would bring full reconciliation between Syria and the United States and even between Iran and the United States.

Western-style democracy 'premature' for GCC

MANAMA (AP) — Bahrain's Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa Ibn Salman Al Khalifa was quoted Saturday as rejecting notions that changes in Eastern Europe would have an impact on the Arab states of the Gulf.

He also said it was premature to copy Western-style democracies in the six states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

"Our societies may need some standardised form in future when life problems become more complicated," said Sheikh Khalifa in an interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper Al Sayassah distributed by the Gulf News Agency.

"When we feel that our people have reached a stage of social complication as a result of the forces of civilisation, then tradi-

tional forms (of democracy) would be inevitable," he said.

Sheikh Khalifa criticised democracy activists in Kuwait and other GCC countries trying to emulate Europeans by pressing for change in their countries, saying: "These slogans will not work in our region."

The GCC groups Bahrain with Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, an alliance of the states that essentially came into their own only with the oil wealth of recent decades.

"Undoubtedly, what happened in Eastern European states has whetted the appetite of advocates of some currents, who in the past tried to promote political goods which implied an ideology diffe-

rent from that of our region," said Sheikh Khalifa.

His remarks were the most elaborate public comments by a GCC leader on the possible repercussions in the Gulf of events that sharply altered the Communist world.

"They believed that the circumstances of Eastern Europe resembled the climate of the Gulf and the Arabian peninsula... that they can obtain results here similar to the consequences emerging in Eastern Europe. But our conditions and systems are different from those of Eastern Europe."

Proponents of Western-style democracy have been active mainly in Kuwait, seeking the restoration of the elected 50-member parliament dissolved in

1986 because of vitriolic attacks by MPs on government members. The Kuwaiti parliament was suspended for four years starting in 1976 for the same reasons.

Bahrain was the only other GCC country to have an elected parliament, but only for a brief two-year spell in the early 1970s shortly after the central Gulf island state gained independence from Britain.

The GCC states mostly emulate the Islamic system of rule through shura or consultative councils, whose members are appointed to help push through legislation. The leaders also have the weekly majlis, where citizens can call freely with their peti-

Sudan to free detained British journalist soon

KHARTOUM (Agencies) — A British journalist held since Wednesday for unexplained "security reasons" will be released soon, a government minister said Saturday.

Julian Ozzane, 25, of Nairobi, Kenya, was on assignment in Khartoum for the London newspaper Sunday Correspondent when he was questioned Tuesday and ordered to report the next day to security headquarters. He has been held since then.

Ozzane also is East Africa stringer for Financial Times, a London daily, and was to have gone to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Wednesday for that paper. His foreign editor, Jurek Martin, said in London that Ozzane's hotel room was searched and notes and papers taken.

On Saturday, Sudanese Information Minister Ali Mohammad Shummo said Ozzane was arrested "for security reasons, but his release is imminent. His papers are being examined and his release processed."

He refused to specify the security reasons or what Ozzane was suspected of doing.

Martin said among sensitive issues Ozzane might have been investigating in Khartoum were the 7-year-old civil war in southern Sudan and the trial of five Palestinians convicted in a 1987 bombing of a hotel in the

Sudanese capital.

Seven dead in the attack included a British couple, both aid workers, and their two small children as well as a third aid worker, a teacher. A court hearing is scheduled for March 4 to determine whether the Palestinians should be hanged or be allowed to spare themselves by paying blood money under the Sudanese system of Islamic Law.

The London-based International Press Institute (IPI) said Ozzane had interviewed Sudan's security chief, Col. Bakri Hassan Saleh, before interrogation and arrest.

"We believe that the detention of our colleague is a gross violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights," the institute said in a protest message sent Friday to Sudanese leader Lt. Gen. Omar Hassan Al Bashir.

The institute demanded that Bashir, leader of a 15-officer junta that took power last June 30 from a civilian regime, immediately order Ozzane's release.

IPI says it represents more than 2,000 editors, reporters and publishers around the world.

Meanwhile, two Western doctors, abducted three weeks ago by rebels in war-torn southern Sudan, arrived in Brussels Saturday after being released by their captors.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

Algerian, Saudi ministers hold talks

NICOSIA (R) — The foreign ministers of Algeria and Saudi Arabia, both members of the Arab League committee for Lebanon, discussed peace efforts for the war-torn country Saturday, the Saudi Press Agency reported. It said Algerian Foreign Minister Sid Ahmad Ghazali, in Saudi Arabia for a pilgrimage to Mecca, also discussed bilateral relations with his Saudi counterpart Prince Saud Al Faisal.

Syria, Pakistan discuss cooperation

DAMASCUS (R) — A Pakistani minister had talks with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa Saturday about Afghanistan and events in the subcontinent, the official Syrian News Agency (SANA) said. It said senior Pakistani Minister Murtaza Bhutto also discussed the Arab-Israeli conflict and Lebanon. Officials said Syrian President Hafiz Al Assad had accepted an invitation to visit Pakistan. No date was given.

Omani forces launch exercise

NICOSIA (R) — The Omani Armed Forces launched a series of manoeuvres Saturday to improve their combat skills, the Oman News Agency said. The agency, monitored in Cyprus, said ground, naval and air forces were taking part in the "Daring Adventure-2" war games expected to last several days.

50 injured in Algerian train crash

ALGIERS (R) — About 50 people suffered slight injuries Saturday when a passenger train slammed into a freight train in the Algiers suburb of El Harrach, the Algerian News Agency APS said. APS said the passenger train, bound for the western city of Oran, caught up with the freight train travelling on the same line in the same direction and rammed it from behind. The accident was due to a signalling error, APS said.

GCC, EC ministers to meet in March

BAHRAIN (R) — Foreign ministers of the European Community (EC) and the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) are due to meet in Muscat on March 17, Irish Foreign Minister Gerry Collins said in Bahrain Saturday. The Gulf News Agency quoted Collins, whose country currently holds the presidency of the EC, as saying the Europeans had agreed to a proposal for the meeting put by Bahrain's Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad Ibn Mubarak Al Khalifa. Collins, who arrived in Bahrain Friday night on the first leg of a Gulf tour, was speaking after meeting Bahrain's Emir Sheikh Isa Ibn Salman Al Khalifa. The agency said regional and international issues, recent democratic changes in Eastern Europe and cooperation between the EC and the GCC were reviewed. Bahrain's Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa Ibn Sulman Al Khalifa and his foreign and interior ministers attended the meeting which followed economic talks in Granada recently between officials from the two groups. The GCC, an economic and political alliance, groups Oman, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and United Arab Emirates.

Turkey urges change in Cypriot attitude

ANKARA (R) — Turkey, throwing its weight behind Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash before U.N.-sponsored talks in New York, said Greek Cypriots must change their negative attitude if there was to be a solution to the Cyprus problem. "There is an urgent need on the part of Greek Cypriots to make radical changes in their negative attitude towards Turkish Cypriots," a Foreign Ministry statement said. "It is obvious that in order to establish a political partnership on the island, the two communities will have to have peaceful relations, otherwise the talks and any agreement to be reached will not have any meaning," it said. The statement was issued Friday night ahead of fresh talks between Denktash and Cypriot President George Vassiliou starting in New York Monday. "Turkey is neither optimistic nor pessimistic on the forthcoming talks," Foreign Ministry spokesman Murat Sancar said. Turkey is the only country to recognise the breakaway "Turkish Republic of North Cyprus," declared by Denktash in 1983. The island has been divided since a 1974 Turkish invasion which followed a short-lived coup in Nicosia engineered by the junta then ruling Greece.

TUNIS (R) — Tunisian authorities have drafted 283 militant students into the army in a bid to end weeks of campus unrest by Muslim fundamentalists. Those drafted were among over 580 students held for questioning this week after the Muslim militants occupied university buildings and fought police in Tunis and the southern town of Sfax, the Tunisian News Agency (TAP) said Friday. The authorities did however release Abdul Latif Makdi, the secretary general of the Tunisian General Students' Union, the Islamic group behind the protests, TAP said.

Omani official leaves Tehran

NICOSIA (AP) — Oman's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Yusuf Ibn Alawi, has left Tehran after two days of discussions on the deadlocked peace talks between Iran and Iraq. The official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), which reported the departure, said Alawi considered his visit "highly successful and fruitful." The Omani envoy, sent off at the airport by Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, said Tehran expressed readiness for strengthening its relations with the Gulf countries. IRNA, monitored in Nicosia, said Alawi's visit was part of an effort by the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states to revive the Iran-Iraq negotiations. The talks are deadlocked because of differences between Iran and Iraq over the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 598, which halted the war with a ceasefire in August 1988. "We have always been for the full implementation of the U.N. resolution and accept any efforts in this regard," Velayati said, terming the talks with the Omani delegation as constructive regarding the issue of improving relations among the Gulf states. The GCC members selected Oman last month to mediate between Iraq and Iran.

Palestine names first women ambassadors

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — For the first time, Yasser Arafat has approved the appointment of women to head the Palestinian diplomatic missions, a senior PLO official said Saturday.

Abdul Latif Abu Hijlah, director-general of the PLO's Political Department, said Layla Shaheed was named Palestinian ambassador to Dublin and Nuha Tadrus to Valetta, Malta, under a reshuffle of representatives approved by Arafat.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) launched its 1988 peace initiative acknowledging the existence of the state of Israel side by side with a Palestinian state on what was formerly Palestine under British mandate.

The PLO has already un-

ilaterally proclaimed the establishment of the state, generally designated for the West Bank and Gaza Strip territories which are under Israeli occupation.

Abu Hijlah, who spoke in Abu Dhabi, said the reshuffle involves 12 ambassadors among whom were some new appointees, including the two women.

Shaheed, who studied political sciences at the Sorbonne, was a close aide of the late Yasser Arafat, the PLO's representative in Paris who was assassinated in the late 1970s.

Shaheed, in her early 40s, has been an active member of Fateh, the Palestinian mainstream faction within the PLO, since she was a student at the American University of Beirut.

Abu Hijlah said the other

changes involved the transfer of Fuad Bitar from Athens, Greece, to Bucharest, Romania, while Issam Kamel will be moved from East Berlin to Madrid.

Fuad Yassin moves from Spain to Turkey, while Ribhi Haloum moves from Turkey to Indonesia and Al Tayyib Abdul Rahman from Yugoslavia to Jordan.

Abdullah Abdullah in Canada shifts to Greece and Hassan Abdul Rahman replaces him. Abdul Rahman was considered representative in the United States even though Washington has rejected having Palestinian office.

New appointments include assigning Kayid Jaradat to Madagascar and Mohammed Abu Shanab to Djibouti.

The 12th appointee would be

for Washington, according to Abu Hijlah, but he would not give the name of the new appointee.

Abu Hijlah said there were no more reshuffles under consideration, thereby denying circulating reports about various other transfers mainly from the Gulf area.

Earlier, a PLO official had described the reshuffle as "a restructuring of our missions after they were turned into embassies, designed to upgrade their performance."

He said the move became necessary in support of the peace initiative and to offset the political gains Israel was making in Eastern Europe after the dramatic government changes in countries that were traditional supporters of the Palestinians.

Iran: Gulf could use oil to fight Israel

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani says Gulf countries could use oil as an economic weapon against Israel, the Iranian News Agency (IRNA) reported Saturday.

"The... Gulf countries could employ their oil and gas as a weapon to eliminate the Zionist regime," IRNA quoted Rafsanjani as saying. He did not elabo-

rate. In 1973, Arab oil-producing countries imposed an oil embargo on the United States and Western Europe for their support of Israel in its war that year with the Arabs.

IRNA, monitored in Nicosia, said Rafsanjani was addressing the inauguration of an International Competition of Recitations from the Koran Friday.

Meanwhile Iran's pro-government Tehran Times newspaper Saturday urged Muslim countries to prevent the settlement of Soviet Jews in Israel through a "coordinated diplomatic move and exerting pressure on those involved."

IRNA said the daily criticised the Iranian Foreign Ministry for failing to condemn the settlement of Soviet Jews in Israeli-occupied territories.

It said it was "highly probable that Moscow would have reacted positively to a word of advice from Tehran" due to the friendly relations between the two countries.

A partial lifting of Soviet travel restrictions has allowed a Jewish exodus to Israel, where officials expect 50,000 to 100,000 immigrants this year.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programme
17:10 Football
18:00 News summary in Arabic
18:05 Local programme
18:20 Cultural programme
19:00 Local programme
19:40 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Programme review
21:40 Local programme
22:40 Varieties programme
23:00 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Tel Peto Tel Filis
18:15 L'ecole de l'ans
18:30 News in French
19:15 Aujourd'hui en France
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties programme
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Who's the Boss?
21:10 Women in Politics
22:00 News in English
22:30 Game Set and Match

PRAYER TIMES

04:47 Fajr
06:05 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:49 Dhuhr

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624390
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Yemeni Church Tel. 622566
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 71261
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 71251
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 71261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 717151
Assman International Church Tel. 653266
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811225
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 818187 and 654932

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be cloudy to cloudy with expected scattered showers and winds.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

will be northwesterly moderate. In Amman, it will be partly cloudy with expected scattered showers and winds will be northerly moderate and strong rain.
Min./Max. temp.
3/11
Amman 8/20
Aqaba 8/20
Dahab 2/14
Jordan Valley 7/19
Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 11, Aqaba 19, Elanidy reading: Amman 22 per cent, Aqaba 36 per cent.

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Mohammad Al Aboudi 778939
Dr. Saad Abu Hamad 744368
Dr. Amin Abdul Jaber 614222
Dr. Hanna Mansour 732374
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asema pharmacy 670253
Nairouhi pharmacy 626272
Al Salsan pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shneissani pharmacy 637660

EMERGENCIES

Dr. Shihab Al Zah (983238)
Al Shawa pharmacy (983238)
ZARQA:
Dr. Mubash Al Hijawi 985417
Khalifah pharmacy 985417

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Maternity J. Amn 644281/6
Al-Badri Maternity J. Amn 642412/2
Al-Badri Maternity J. Amn 642362
Malhe, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shneissani 664171/4
Shneissani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 842845
Al-Mushtak Hospital 667219
The Islamic, Abdali 666177/7
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Baqir, Al-Mushtak 77101/3
Al-Badri, J. Amman 775112/6
Army, Marza 815111/5
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071
Im Shams Hospital (09)986732
IBRA:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275535

Jordan Television

Radio Jordan 773111
Water Authority 681010
Jordan Electricity Authority 615615
Electric Power Company 636361
RT Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (05)53200-5, where it should always be verified.



The motorcade of the four leaders heads for Hashemiyeh Palace after the conclusion of the summit (photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

Senate urges ACC leaders to end Iraq-Syria differences

AMMAN (Petra) — The Upper House of Parliament (Senate) Saturday urged the leaders of the four-member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) to speed up action towards ending differences between Iraq and Syria so that the Arabs can together confront the common dangers. The cable, which was sent by Senate Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi, also urged the four leaders to take "necessary measures that can help find a solution for the Lebanese problem and end the no-war-no-peace situation in the Gulf."

Lawzi pointed out that the Soviet Union was about to issue a new law on emigration and said: "This makes it incumbent on the Arabs to exert immediate efforts towards ending differences between Iraq and Syria so that the Arabs can together confront the common dangers. The cable, which was sent by Senate Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi, also urged the four leaders to take 'necessary measures that can help find a solution for the Lebanese problem and end the no-war-no-peace situation in the Gulf.'"

Lawzi appealed to the ACC leaders to undertake a clear and speedy policy to deal with the consequences of Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine. Describing the immigration as the most serious danger facing the Arab Nation, the cable called for a pan-Arab summit that should be convened as soon as possible to deal with the situation.

Lawzi described the Jewish immigration as "a threat that is bound to place added obstacles in the path of liberating usurped Arab lands and impede the Palestinian people's struggle for freedom." He said that the influx of Jews would block the way for a just and comprehensive peace and could lead to the expulsion of further Palestinians from their homeland. Above all, he said, "such immigration is bound to create new dangerous realities for Jordan, Syria and Lebanon and could pose a serious regional threat to the whole Arab Nation."

Saleh: Yemen supports Jordan against threats

AMMAN (Petra) — North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh Saturday voiced his country's full support to Jordan in the face of Israel's threats and said that North Yemen stands behind Jordan and its people in their efforts to defend the homeland and to repel any Zionist aggression.

Addressing the final session of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) summit, the president said his country refuses all statements and insinuations by Israel directed against Jordan and will provide all forms of support for the Palestinian people in their heroic struggle to achieve freedom.

Petra Bank dispute over

AMMAN (Petra) — The Petra Bank Administrative Committee (PBAC) and the Jordan Banking and Insurance Employees Association (JBIEA) Saturday signed an agreement to end a labour dispute between management and staff. Ministry of Labour Secretary General Saleh Khasawneh announced. According to the agreement, Petra staff will end their sit-in they started Tuesday and will resume work today.

The Ministry of Labour, during the past two days, conducted unstinting efforts with the parties to the Petra Bank dispute so as to bring views closer and hammer out an acceptable and durable agreement, Khasawneh declared.

Mubarak calls for historic conciliation between Palestinians, Israelis

AMMAN (Petra) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak Saturday called for full Arab support for Jordan in the face of Israeli threats and in view of the continued influx of Jewish immigrants into Palestine.

Iraq assails U.S. presence in Gulf, support for Israel

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein Saturday launched a scathing attack on the U.S. for maintaining its military presence in the Gulf and supporting Israel and said that the Arabs should start to invest financially in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe as a means to counter Israeli influence in the U.S.

Since the creation of the ACC last February, the world has witnessed serious developments, described by some as very unusual mainly due to their repercussions on areas in different parts of the world.

It is our duty to analyse these developments and their positive and negative impacts with a view to benefiting from them; and we should confine our discussions to the most urgent topics and the most urgent developments which have a strong bearing on our region.

Addressing the opening session of the summit meeting which opened at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman, Mubarak called on the Arab countries to stand firm in the face of Israeli attempts to settle Jewish immigrants on occupied Arab lands.

The settlement of Jews in Arab territory, including the holy city of Jerusalem, is a flagrant violation of international principles and a disregard to the Palestinian peoples rights to self-determination in Palestine, the president said.

World War II resulted in the retreat of powers like France and Britain, and the emergence of the Soviet Union and the United States as superpowers. Washington has led the Western capitalist bloc, while Moscow has been leading the Communist bloc. Another outcome of World War II was the emergence of the state of Israel on occupied Palestine, following the displacement of the indigenous population. The Western imperialist world helped the Zionists to expand their aggression in 1967 while the Communist world sided with the Arabs.

Since the end of the war and the creation of the two major blocs, the world has been witnessing an unchanging status quo, but suddenly in the past year things began to change. This was brought about mainly because the Soviet Union recoiled and drew inward to deal with its own internal problems, abandoning the course of its struggle with the West. It has become clear that the United States is assuming the upper hand in the world political arena.

"The Arab countries in general and the ACC members in particular should extend total support for Jordan in its endeavours to deal with the developments in the region and threats by irresponsible elements which are trying to gamble with the Middle East's security and safety by following a deceitful mirage and false illusions," Mubarak said.

Following are major excerpts from the president's speech: "We want to make it clear to such elements that we are aware of the fact that there is a pan-Arab and international commitment to protect Jordan's sovereignty and territorial integrity and to ensure its positive role in the peace process."

"The present developments in our region should draw the world's attention to the fact that the persistence of explosive issues in the region is bound to lead to repercussions whose consequences can not be predicted and which can have damaging results on the interests of all parties. Therefore, we urgently call for international efforts to be intensified so that a comprehensive and just solution for the Arab-Israeli conflict can be found. Egypt calls for a historic reconciliation between Israel and the Palestinian people in accordance with principles endorsed by the international community."

"As we meet in Amman the world in general and the Middle East in particular are witnessing serious developments which should be discussed and examined in detail at the ACC summit here."

"International developments have serious consequences on the Arab region and Arab interests. Safeguarding human rights of certain people should not mean violating the rights of others."

"The Gulf region has not known peace yet and we should help transform the present ceasefire into a total peace and an end to the state of no-war-no-peace between Iran and Iraq. We should reiterate our total support for Iraq's initiative to end the war in all its forms so that all peoples in the region can live in peace and security."

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ACC moves on to building stage; Jordan will defend Arab Nation

The following is the full text of the address made by His Majesty King Hussein at the opening session of the ACC summit, Saturday, Feb. 24, 1990.

His Excellency, our brother Ali Abdallah Salih,
His Excellency, our brother Saddam Hussein,
His Excellency, our brother Mohammed Hosni Mubarak,

I greet you in the true Arab spirit and welcome you most sincerely to Jordan, your Arab home that is firm in its loyalty and faithful in its commitment to the Arab Nation and people.

It is our good fortune and a source of hope and optimism that this summit should coincide with the holy anniversary of Isra' and Mi'raj. You have come to Amman, within sight of the precious captive city of Jerusalem, where all hearts have been joined in faith and all souls united in love and harmony since the pact of Omar established the noble basis of this union. Since that pact, we presented to the world a model of a nation devoted to the one God, purified by its worship of him.

Muslims and Christians, in their mosques and churches were enfolded by a national bond that will always be their source of strength and security as they face their challenges and build their future. You are with us in Amman today, within view of the first of the two qiblas and the third of the holy harams, as well as the churches of Nativity and Holy Sepulchre; where the name of God touches the heart before it echoes in the ear; and where the courageous Palestinian national uprising, the intifada, sees a source of its strength and steadfastness in ours, which we seek to build in order to regain our right and protect our dignity. This summit also coincides with another cherished occasion, the first anniversary of founding the Arab Cooperation Council. In these precious moments, I find it difficult to express to you what lies in our hearts and minds. I find it uneasy to welcome you when you are in your own home, among your own family, as we were earlier among our brothers in Egypt and Iraq, and in Yemen, whose steps towards unity we have followed with happiness and optimism. It is our common belief that every step towards unity brings us closer to fulfilling our dream, and renews our hope to realise it. Therefore, I consider it my happy duty to bless the efforts of our Yemeni brothers and to wish them all success in their undertaking, which is as much our ambition as it is that of the one people of Yemen.

Brother Presidents, Today we stand together on Jordanian soil, in this Arab realm, with hearts united by affection, minds sharpened by awareness, and strong arms that have undertaken joint Arab action for the better of our peoples and our Arab Nation. In the first year since the establishment of the ACC, we laid the groundwork for cooperation and complementarity. I thank God for guiding us to this approach and helping us to start building our council with care and awareness.

One, to be part of these historic developments and employ them to enhance its existence, stability, and growth, or, two, to be on the periphery of these developments, and so become an easy prey that is mercilessly leached and discarded without having gained any benefit from these developments for the Arab land and people. A new world order is emerging, whose most prominent features are the emphasis on economic and political groupings, and the new relationship between countries of the North, based on stability and progress instead of hegemony and the arms race.

Consequently, this summit which we hold today is our first opportunity to affirm our deep understanding of world events. This understanding should be translated into action that earns the respect of others and reflects our self-respect and concern for our existence and future. If we do not define our role in the world it will be defined for us by others. This is the task which our council

must set for itself, after a year of deliberation and coordination which culminated in the agreements reached by the ministerial committees and the ministerial commission.

At this point, I should register our deep appreciation for the Republic of Iraq for hosting our founding summit, for our brother Saddam Hussein for chairing the first session of the higher commission, and for our brother Taha Yassin Ramadan for heading the ministerial commission. Iraq has played a major part in bringing us to the present stage, where this summit will be the first step towards realising our aspirations and fulfilling the great hopes which the people of our four countries place on the Arab Cooperation Council.

Brother Presidents, We meet today with much to deliberate on, and a great deal to accomplish. On the eastern front of our nation, the ceasefire between Iraq and Iran remains at the starting point. Fighting has stopped, but peace has not come yet. The continuation of the status quo is neither beneficial to Iraq, nor to Iran, nor to the region as a whole. The continuation of the ceasefire in its present form prevents both countries from directing themselves fully towards construction and development and making a substantial contribution to the establishment of just peace and stability in our region. Iraq has responded positively to all the peace initiatives that sought sincerely to bring the war with Iran to a just conclusion. Iraq also launched many initiatives of its own, the most recent of which was that of our brother, President Saddam Hussein, which reflected Iraq's serious desire for peace. Unfortunately, these initiatives have not met a favourable response from the other side, and the war has yet to reach the just conclusion that we all hope for, particularly in relation to the most pressing humanitarian issue involved, that of the prisoners of war.

The return to peace and good neighbourliness to this part of our region would leave no excuse or pretext for foreign armed presence in the heart of the Arab and Islamic world, a presence that threatens us all and prevents us from devoting all our efforts to achieve development and progress. This normalisation of relations would enable us to maintain our inner strength that deters our enemies and defeats their sinister designs against the Arab order and the Islamic nation.

In Lebanon, strife persists despite the good offices and efforts of the Arab tripartite higher committee to help Lebanon regain its unity and sovereignty over all Lebanese soil. This leaves the situation in Lebanon explosive and jeopardises, not only the existence of Lebanon, but also the whole Arab order.

And then came the waves of Jewish immigrants to add a new and most dangerous dimension that puts us all against an organised act of aggression that targets all Palestinian soil, and carries the seeds of a new expansionist aggression threatening this part of the Arab World. I warned of this danger before it had materialised, and I repeat my warning now that it has begun to do so. It does not threaten my country alone, but also the depth of the Arab Nation. It jeopardises Arab security and constitutes an obstacle to peace, as well as a new blow against the intifada and the legitimate Palestinian people's struggle to gain their liberty and independence on their national soil.

I pause here to refer to Israel's clamour, attempting to embed in people's minds its opposition to any non-Jordanian military presence on the Arab soil of Jordan, the longest line of confrontation with Israel, and the Arab Nation's tenacious forward position against aggression and expansionism.

What is worth contemplating is the intensification of the Israeli campaign against Jordan at a time when we suffer a reduction in our capabilities and resources, and face tremendous difficulties in securing the minimum that allows us to defend ourselves and the integrity of the Arab Nation. All this, while Israel receives unlimited support and assistance

from many in the world, particularly, aid on a regular and growing basis from the most powerful nation, without any effort, decline, or interruption.

Everyone without exception realises the negative effects of the drop in our resources, and its direct consequences on our steadfast people in the occupied territories because of the devaluation of the Jordan dinar.

Nevertheless, we shall remain as our nation has always known us, forbearing, resolute, and steadfast in our country and the Arab Nation. Suffice it for this country to have the honour of defending our Arab Nation and contain the first blow of aggression when it comes, to the best of our ability.

I should not forget to express, at this point, our gratitude and appreciation to our brothers who, prompted by their sense of nationalism, stood by us, and helped us overcome part of our financial and economic difficulties.

These issues are too important for us not to keep space with them and formulate a united national stand towards them. The prime task of our council is to build; by consolidating and protecting what we build are part of the Arab effort to face the dangers represented by each one of these causes.

The evolving situation in the world requires a serious Arab stand. I am confident that our share my hope that our summit will prove part of the greater effort, which requires a different type of examination and preparation, both in intensity and comprehensiveness, so we can arrive at a united and effective national stand that makes our nation capable of dealing with the new developments and able to face its challenges.

Brother Presidents, Permit me, once again, to welcome you to your country, among your people, hoping that our summit will be successful in realising our hopes and those of our peoples.

May God's peace and blessings be with you.

We now start our second year with optimism and eagerness, but also with serenity and resolve to achieve our goals. The road before us is clearly marked, our objectives are well defined, and we shall achieve them through our determination and diligence, by the help of God, and with his guidance.

Brother Presidents, The establishment of the Arab Cooperation Council last February was the product of a common awareness, developed and intensified by our concern for the present and future of our peoples, which are part of the present and future of the Arab Nation. In the first year we reached a series of agreements that define the framework of our common action. Now, as we enter the second year, we are hopeful and determined to translate these achievements into a reality that brings many benefits to our peoples, and confirms by practice the seriousness that guided our first steps. Therefore, I am confident that, having laid the foundation, we are now able to proceed to the building stage, in all fields of cooperation and complementarity.

The events that are now taking place in the world, the end of the cold war, and the development of new and surprising realities, impose on us a vital responsibility to our countries and future generations. There are those who want our region, our nation, and our people to be on the periphery of the movement of history. It is our responsibility to intensify and vitalise our work within the council, to make it clear to others that we can be neither broken nor disregarded; that our cause, concerns and ambitions cannot be ignored; and that we are not to be treated with condescension. You are aware that the end of the cold war may make our countries and peoples part of an accord between economic groupings that already exist, or others that are still forming. Unless the great work we have started substantiates our active and effective presence, grave dangers will come our way, threatening the very existence of our nation. The Arab Nation now faces two options:

One, to be part of these historic developments and employ them to enhance its existence, stability, and growth, or, two, to be on the periphery of these developments, and so become an easy prey that is mercilessly leached and discarded without having gained any benefit from these developments for the Arab land and people. A new world order is emerging, whose most prominent features are the emphasis on economic and political groupings, and the new relationship between countries of the North, based on stability and progress instead of hegemony and the arms race.

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He said Egypt believed that the United States was extending all efforts to maintain the peace process.

In answer to a question on the status of relations between Egypt and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Baz said: "It is a very cordial relationship; we coordinate, we contact and consult to exchange information and views... the relationship is good."

Both Abdul Meguid and Baz described the Amman ACC summit as very successful. "Our evaluation is that this session of the ACC has been a very productive one and more than positive," Baz said.

Baz attributed the shortening of the two-day summit to one day to proper preparations prior to the holding of the summit.

Political statement
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The four leaders expressed support for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and hailed its efforts to advance the peace process. They stressed that the main obstacle in the path towards peace was Israel's intransigence.

The four leaders called for intensified efforts to arrive at a permanent and total end to the Gulf conflict between Iraq and Iran and also to the ordeal of prisoners of war held by both sides.

The four leaders reiterated their support for Iraq's endeavours to safeguard its territory and sovereignty and to protect its historic rights in the Shatt Al Arab waterway. They said there was an urgent need to remove all war debris from the waterway under United Nations auspices and clear the way for the resumption of international navigation.

The four leaders expressed their appreciation for efforts being exerted by the three-member Arab League committee to end the tragedy in Lebanon in a manner that would ensure Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The four leaders called for withdrawal of all non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon and demanded that the international community exercise pressure on Israel to implement U.N. Security Council Resolution 425 by withdrawing its forces from South Lebanon and help the legitimate Lebanese authorities to assume complete control of Lebanese territory.

The four leaders discussed the situation of Arab water resources and decided to give the subject the attention it deserves based on international law and in a way that will guarantee Arab rights and keep good neighbourliness.

The four leaders reviewed the situation in the Red Sea and stressed necessity of peace, stability and security, away from international and regional conflicts, in the area.

The four leaders expressed their delight over the release of black African nationalist leader Nelson Mandela and congratulated the people of South Africa for their struggle against apartheid. They also congratulated the people of Namibia on their independence after a long struggle and called for promoting Arab-African relations.

The King said during their talks Saturday, the ACC leaders underlined the importance of intensifying efforts at all levels to open the way for the council's members to pool their resources and achieve full integration "at a

time when the countries of the world are joining forces and eliminating all boundaries to form a united power."

"The ACC countries enjoy great potential which can be exploited to ensure a better future for their people," the King said. But, he added, "nothing short of integration and full cooperation can help the Arab masses achieve their objectives."

"The world can look to us only from the angle we choose for ourselves and cannot deal with our countries with respect, confidence and seriousness unless we adopted this attitude among ourselves," said the King, adding that the Amman summit had enhanced the self-confidence of the council members.

Three guest leaders were attending an official dinner hosted by the King in their honour at the Hashemiyah Palace last night. They are expected to leave for home today.

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The political statement issued at the end of the summit did not mention the issue of the U.S. naval presence in the Arabian Gulf which President Hussein attacked in his speech to the summit, but it stressed common political ground on which the four leaders agreed. The statement said the four leaders agreed that both the United States and the Soviet Union "bear a special responsibility" towards the massive influx of Soviet Jewish immigrants to Palestine and that both superpowers should work to-

wards halting the flow of Soviet Jews to the occupied territories. It reaffirmed the ACC countries' support for the 26-month-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories and for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and independent statehood. It reiterated the wide-spread Arab call for an international peace conference on the Middle East to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Addressing the final session, the King said the formation of the council one year ago "came just in time to deal with the developments in the Arab region and international scene."

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Iraq assails U.S.

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"We do not mean to adopt a hostile attitude towards the United States in advance based purely on mere guesses as to what could happen in the future. We want to stress that the Arabs want to see peace and justice prevailing around the world. The Arabs want to establish friendly relations with all countries that respect friendship, be it the United States or others. It is therefore natural for the Arabs to deal realistically with the new American attitude brought about by Moscow's abandonment of its former position."

However, the United States should respect the Arabs and their rights and should refrain from interfering in their internal affairs and should not forget that the Arab Nation is a great nation that led the world in the field of knowledge. Other than this, there can be no room for friendship neither can there be any respect from one side alone. There can be no regard to the interests and the rights of any party without a reciprocal measure to safeguard Arab interests and Arab dignity and Arab options and Arab national security.

In the face of this situation what can the Arabs do?

The Zionists had been in the field, benefiting from Arab failures in the past and upsetting all Arab plans. The Zionists have focused attention on the United States to involve its strategies in a manner that can serve Israel's purpose after discovering that this was not possible to achieve in the European arena.

The United States, on the other hand, has accepted a congruence of interest and joint action with Zionism.

Despite the grave damage and harm done by Washington to the Arabs through its alliance with the Zionists, some of the Arabs had been apprehensive of the Soviet Union and afraid of Communism. Other factors had also delayed joint and influential Arab action vis-a-vis American policies, prompting Washington to disregard all Arab stands.

The Arab Nation's realisation for the need for solidarity on a firm basis of common national interests and proper definition of Arab interests and a definition of elements that threaten their stability and their security and adoption of a strong stand that could stop hostile force from encroaching on their rights, can form a realistic basis for new Arab relations with the United States and other nations. The Arabs want to base their relations with the world on mutual respect, non-interference in internal affairs, and respect for Arab national security.

Israel has been in the practice of taking the initiatives in areas ignored by the Arabs who sometimes rallied to meet the challenge, only to lose momentum for action after a while.

This attitude has failed to come up to the level of Zionist political, informational and other forms of challenge. Therefore, we have seen only witnessed Arab action in word rather than deed.

Experience has taught us that one should not attack an enemy in a specific field of that enemy's own choice, and taught us also that by seeming interested in that the enemy's plans we can launch a successful attack on the enemy's interests in other areas. The question now is how to approach this

situation and weaken our enemies' influence directed against us, and how can we exploit our collective financial, economic, political and informational potential to achieve our objectives.

It has been proved that the Arabs have the power to influence others when they put their real mind to it. This is represented for instance in the Iraqi-Saudi Arabian joint warning in 1980 to countries to refrain from transferring their embassies to Jerusalem, which yielded very favourable results.

The prolonged presence of United States fleets in the Gulf waters has become of paramount significance for the Americans, Japan and the Eastern European countries in view of the recent developments and oil market prospects. The Gulf area could become the most important spot in world affairs. Any nation that can maintain most influence in the Gulf is bound to wield the most powerful influence as a superpower. This means that the Gulf region could fall under American power, which could in the future, impose on the oil countries an oil production quota or a price index to serve Washington's interests.

Therefore, one can deduce that that peace is far off from the Middle East, at least from the American point of view, simply because Washington will be requiring an aggressive and not a peaceful Israel to help serve American interests.

Peace would be far off from Iraq and Iran unless Tehran can respond with responsibility to all the peace overtures offered by Iraq. Peace could be endangered as a result of an Arab-Arab war, and conflicts between the Arabs and their neighbours of a kind that cannot be controlled unless the principle of non-interference in internal affairs has been established and unless military power is avoided in dealings Arab states and unless the Arabs reach clear agreements on pan-Arab cooperation in economic, political and other fields to help establish tranquility and harmony.

Any world power has its weak points. America was forced to withdraw its forces from Lebanon only because it suffered from a single attack by national Lebanese forces. The United States has shown hesitation and frustration on several occasions and has suffered losses as a result of its interference in the affairs of other countries like Panama.

For Israel, which used to be called the invincible power, it suffered defeats at the hands of the Palestinian and Lebanese national forces in 1982, and in the 1973 crossing of the Suez Canal. But, perhaps the most important weapon that had its effect on the world was the collective Arab decision to use the oil weapon in the 1973 war.

As Israel uses certain lobbies to influence the American administration, the Arabs can exploit their billions of dollars in America and the West to serve Arab goals. The Arabs can, if they want, transfer part of their funds to the Soviet Union and Eastern European countries, areas which can be more profitable than the West.

The weakness of the Arab Nation lies in the lack of self-confidence and lack of concentration on the elements of power. United we stand, but divided we fall. Let this be our slogan and our motto so that we can go along together towards the achievement of further progress.

MARKET

For all your:
Packing,
Air Freight Forwarding,
Customs

FEBRUARY 25
Trading
Financial Market
(in J.O.D.)

Sports

McEnroe's appeal rejected

LONDON (AP) — The International Tennis Federation (ITF) Friday rejected John McEnroe's appeal against disqualification from the Australian Open and upheld \$6,500 in fines on the 31-year-old New Yorker.

ITF spokesman Ian Barnes said Grand Slam tournament administrator Bill Babcock had studied all the evidence surrounding McEnroe's fourth-round disqualification in Melbourne, and the player would have to pay the fines.

Under ITF Grand Slam rules, any player accruing fines of \$7,500 or more within a 12-month period automatically is banned from the next Grand Slam event.

That means if McEnroe plays the French Open in May and is

fined another \$1,000, he would be forced to miss Wimbledon.

In his fourth-round match against Sweden's Mikael Pernfors at the Australian Open, McEnroe first was warned for unsportsmanlike conduct, then docked a penalty point for racket abuse and fined \$500.

He was then sensationally disqualified after verbally abusing the referee and supervisor. For the third code violation, the American was fined \$5,000, plus an additional automatic \$1,000 penalty for being disqualified.

Barnes stressed that Friday's decision applies only to Grand Slam events. McEnroe could still accrue fines at regular ATP tournaments and not have to miss any of the majors as a result.

Jordan maintains lead in Malaysia air race

By Serene Hakala
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Sadr Al Urdun (Falcon of Jordan) the Royal Jordanian aircraft taking part in the Malaysia International Air Race 1990, came in third place in the eighth leg of the race, flying from Dubai to Amman 6 hours, 38 minutes. The Jordanian team, however, still maintains the lead in the race with 2 hours 45 minutes. The next and last leg of the race will take the racing teams from Amman to Paris Tuesday, where an awards ceremony will take place.

During the flight from Dubai to Amman, the Falcon of Jordan faced strong head winds and was forced to make a landing in Kuwait for refuelling. This stop over cost the Jordanian team one hour, team members said. "The captain took the right decision and proved to be a real professional. Had he flown straight from Dubai he would have had in his tank maybe three gallons of fuel," on arrival at Amman said Bernard Lamy, former air race participant and winner, and race director of the Malaysia International Air Race.

The Malaysian race started on Feb. 5, 1990, from Paris and will end there on Feb. 28. The winner will receive a cash prize of 100,000 French francs.

"The pilots are not doing it for the money, they are doing it because their passion is to fly aircraft, especially in races," said Lamy in a press conference that he held Saturday at Hotel Jordan Intercontinental.

During the press conference, that was attended by the participants, organizers, sponsors, and members of Royal Jordanian, Lamy praised the Jordanian crew, and said "they are not only good, they are also nice guys." Lamy also expressed his appreciation for His Majesty King Hussein's support of the race, and his continued encouragement to the Jordanian team.

The race started with 13 competing planes, but on the first day one plane withdrew because of landing gear problems. Later on in the race Dubai Victory, representing Dubai, withdrew in Singapore because of technical problems with the vacuum pump, leaving Jordan the only Middle Eastern country to compete in the race, Lamy said.

"We had very good crew coordination, we remained in contact with all stations using RJ equipment, and we were very well prepared for this race," said Eric Ledger, Falcon of Jordan captain. The crew also includes co-pilot Rakan Nasser, and photographer Mazen Fanous. This is Jordan's first time participation in such an international race.

Oman springs another surprise

KUWAIT (AP) — Oman Sunday produced another surprise by holding hosts Kuwait to a 1-1 draw. The half-time score was 0-0.

Oman Thursday drew 1-1 with the United Arab Emirates, contenders for the 24-nation World Cup soccer finals in June.

The match at the Peace and Friendship Stadium was marred by marching orders to two players in the 55th minute. Oman's Nasser Khamis and Kuwaiti skipper Nasser Ghanim were sent off by Ecuador referee George Oreilana in an off-the-ball incident.

Oman took lead in the 52nd minute through Mutarr Khalifa, who slammed home a through pass from Tayib Abdul Noor.

Kuwait, capitalising on an error of Omani keeper Yusuf Obaid, equalised through Moyid Al Hadad in the 60th minute.

Wimbledon shocks Villa

LONDON (R) — John Fashanu made a dream return from injury, scoring twice to spur Wimbledon to a shock 3-0 away win over leaders Aston Villa in the English first division Saturday.

The defeat, only Villa's second in the league this season, squashed their ambitions of opening a five-point lead over inactive Liverpool.

Villa, who won 2-0 at Wimbledon in November but lost three times to the south London side last season, suffered an early setback when David Platt, the league's top scorer with 21 goals, had a penalty saved by Hans Segers in the fifth minute.

Fashanu, in only his second league game of the year, put the visitors ahead with a 57th-minute

penalty after being pulled down by Villa defender Derek Mountfield. He added a second goal 12 minutes later, turning home Dennis Wise's floated free kick from the right touchline.

Paul Miller made sure of 12th-placed Wimbledon's three points with a third goal six minutes from time.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
A TAYMIAH HUSSEIN
1988 Third World Services Inc.

TEST YOUR PLAY

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ K J 3
♥ A Q 5
♦ A K 5 2
♣ J 10 5

SOUTH
♠ 10 4
♥ 10 9 8 7
♦ 9
♣ Q 9 7 6 4

Void

WEST
♠ 10 4
♥ 10 9 8 7
♦ 9
♣ Q 9 7 6 4

EAST
♠ 10 4
♥ 10 9 8 7
♦ 9
♣ Q 9 7 6 4

Void

THE BIDDING:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 6 NT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♠

Once again we are going ask you to test your declarer skill. Cover up the East-West cards with your thumbs and decide how you would play six no trump after a heart lead. Your auction was simple enough. With a balanced 17 points you had a clear-cut one-no-trump opening and partner was near maximum for his raise to slam.

The hand looks easy enough. Simply win in dummy and run the jack of clubs, and you make six or seven depending on which defender holds the queen of clubs.

That might be so, but you have sinned grievously—you have committed yourself to a line of play before bothering to count your tricks! You have eight tricks in spades, hearts and diamonds; therefore, you need four from clubs. If clubs are no worse than 4-1, your line will produce four tricks. But what if the gods are angry and the suit splits 5-0?

If you look at the East-West hands, you see that is indeed the case, and you can now come to only three club tricks—sorry one. You overlooked a simple safety play to guarantee yourself the required tricks.

Win the opening lead in hand with the jack and lead a low club toward dummy. If the suit is distributed as above, West can't rise with the queen without giving you four tricks in the suit, so he plays low and the ten wins as East shows out. Now you return to hand and lead another club up to the jack, and West is helpless.

What if East has all the clubs? Dummy's ten forces the queen, and all you have to do is win any return, cash the jack of clubs and take the marked finesse of the club eight to land your slam.

THE Daily Crossword

by Louis Sablin

ACROSS
1 — lies in bed faintly
5 Bore and amino
10 Crow on
14 Eng. river
15 "The sort of girl I like" (Bette Midler)
16 Actor Calhoun
17 Mob scene
18 Aggregate
19 A.M. word
20 Murder e.g.
23 Indian
24 Mine stuff
25 Cubic meter
27 Passover meal
29 Old Butler
32 Ziti
34 Fall behind
36 I love: Lat.
37 Second-hand
38 Clotheshorse
42 Mold-ripened cheese
43 Fender ornament
44 "Born on the —" (song)
45 Paint or path
46 Book of maps
48 Mating game?
50 Deduce
54 Turk. title
56 Creek
57 Far from secret info
62 Link alert
63 Tropical fruit
64 July 4 e.g.
65 Paddy crop
66 Climbers
67 Road to Roma
68 Belg. river
69 On edge
70 Old salts

DOWN
1 Antonius or Garvey
2 Fly
3 Drunk
4 Opposed
5 Petal essence
6 Pokey
7 Ratio words
8 Unheeding
9 Ego
10 Carry or Lee
11 Bash!
12 Major routes
13 Ex. follower
14 Synagogue
15 "Chad —"
16 "Chad —"
17 Ruler: abbr.
18 Fragrant balsam
19 Present
20 Beehive state
21 Trustful
22 Military branch
23 Flatly
24 Show biz
25 Eucorym
26 Bahamas etc.: abbr.
27 Jacket part
28 NCO
29 Mistake
30 Caretaker
31 Novelist
32 Dorothy
33 Arab chief
34 Honker
35 Ship
36 Church area
37 Nabokov novel
38 Fix puzzle
39 Make eggs in a way

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY FEBRUARY 25, 1990
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is a fine day and evening for you to make a big point to get all of your affairs on a solid and secure foundation and to get with those able to give you practical data.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Plan an interesting entertainment from a newcomer from afar that you like. A happy day with your attachment should be yours.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Accept business suggestions of a straight-shooting friend. Let a brilliant outsider arrange conditions better at your residence.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A modern minded friend will give you some good ideas for entertaining. A great day to get your home in perfect running condition.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Let good friends know you like them by doing something special for them. Be truly cooperative with attachment, despite an urge for control.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Take family with you at outside amusements with fascinating friends. Lots of activity between you and your attachment will build more mutual interest.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) A more expansive awareness of your home opportunities can now be helpful. A new attitude towards your attachment can bring a new romantic favour.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) A friend who is a financial expert can be very helpful to you. An electric feeling can now exist between you and the one you love the most.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Wait for friends to call and invite you to congenial recreations. Dynamic persons should be invited into your home for a sparkling time.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You now need to organise your business affairs on a more secure structure. A good time to add charm, beauty, music, etc., to your home.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A discussion with a family member over money would be non-productive. Do something practical now that your loved one will appreciate.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Get and be with as many friends and acquaintances as possible. Return social obligations now by entertaining at your own dwelling.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) A farseeing businessman will give you fine modern ideas for your affairs. Give your family the benefit of a new viewpoint you have recently acquired.

Today's child: If your child were born today he or she will have a very happy and full life if you make it a point early on to teach this boy or girl to be less deliberate and to make necessary decisions without going over and over various reasons for or against such a plan. The power of decision is perhaps the most important and forceful response.

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

CONCRETE PUMP FOR SALE

Mounted on board of a Mercedes truck in very good condition. Customs duty and licence paid.

For more information call tel: 788468, to talk to Abu Ahmad between 6 and 8 p.m.

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Furnished apartment consisting of the following:

- Two bedrooms and maid room
- Study room
- Living room, dining room and salon
- Independent central heating
- Fully airconditioned
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- Telephone
- Kitchen with full utensils. Dishwasher, dryer and washing-machine.

Location: Abdoun area, first left after Abdoun Supermarket, first building on the right.

For more information Please call 622288 between 9.00 a.m.-1 p.m.

JVTC & PATCHI

Jordanian Video Tape Centre

Congratulate the crew of the Royal Jordanian (FALCON OF JORDAN)

led by Jordanian Captain Eric Ledger, from Royal Jordanian; Jordanian co-pilot Sh. Rakan Ghazi, from Royal Jordanian; Jordanian Journalist & Photographer Mazen Fanous, from JVTC.

For their remarkable achievements throughout the different stages of the MALAYSIA AIR RACE (Paris-Langkawi-Paris) and breaking all previous records.

We proudly congratulate the Royal Jordanian as well as the Arab Wings and its efficient maintenance team on their great victory, wishing them the best of luck in the final stage.

THE SECRET OF GETTING AIR CARGO TO AND FROM THE MIDDLE EAST

The secret of getting cargo to and from the Middle East quickly, efficiently and safely is a question of dedication.

That's why Royal Jordanian has cargo facilities at each one of its destinations as well as staff experienced exclusively in the handling of cargo, be it perishables or general shipments. Our computerized system allows you to monitor where your cargo is at any time en route to its final destination.

Add to that the ideal location of Amman, the center of the network and the heart of the Middle East, and you have a cargo service that really makes a difference. And that's no secret.

ROYAL JORDANIAN

RAINBOW

Tel: 625155

OVER BOARD

Performance: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30

CONCORD

Tel: 677420

Younis Shalabi, Sa'id Saleh, and Wahid Saif in

The Good, the Monster, and the Fierce (Arabic)

Performance: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

PHILADELPHIA

Tel: 634144

IRON ANGELS "2"

Performance: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

NIJOUR

Tel: 675571

STEALING HOME

Performance: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

PLAZA

Tel: 699238

BILOXI BLUES

Performance: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Genscher: Uncertainty over Polish border issue hindering unification

WEST BERLIN (AP) — West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher says uncertainty over Bonn's stance regarding Poland's Western border is hindering German unification, and has called for Germany to reject any claims to Polish territory.

Poland's state news agency (PAP) said that Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki called Kohl Friday evening.

"The prime minister presented to the chancellor Poland's position on the problem connected with the process of unification of Germany and security of their neighbours," PAP said.

Mazowiecki stepped up the pressure on the border issue this week by calling on the two Germanys to sign a peace treaty guaranteeing Poland's post-War II boundaries.

Kohl's spokesman said that only the government of a united Germany can reject claims to what is now Poland, leading to an apparent difference of opinion with the Foreign Ministry.

German conservatives still claim part of modern-day Poland. About one-third of modern-day Poland was part of the Third Reich, and was turned over to Poland after the Nazi defeat.

Many agree with Genscher in arguing that questions about Bonn's stance regarding Polish

territory stand in the way of joining the two German states. The West German government is already positioning itself for the expected merging, although some say Kohl has been trying to move too quickly.

Interior Minister Wolfgang Schäuble told U.S. officials that the East German's freely elected parliament may opt for immediate unification, after being sworn in following elections on March 18.

"It is conceivable that there will be no more (East German) government after March 18," the conservative Bonn daily newspaper Die Welt quoted him as telling officials in Washington. He said it was due to the expected splintering of the new parliament.

Several recent polls, however, have indicated East Germany's Social Democrats will win more than 50 per cent of the vote.

East Germany's economic crisis has accelerated in recent weeks, forcing the government to end food subsidies and raising fears that the nation is on the

verge of economic collapse.

One of the most critical decisions affecting the pace and manner of unification will be the rate at which the East German mark is made convertible for the powerful West German currency in a monetary union joining the currencies.

A 1-to-1 conversion rate would likely lead to rampant inflation, economists say.

Bonn government spokesman Dieter Vogel Friday discounted a newspaper report contending that the West German government had decided on the 1-to-1 rate.

Vogel said that the committee studying economic union is still in the "fact-finding stage" and has come up with no firm conclusions.

Genscher, the influential foreign minister of the centrist Free Democrats, has called for a clear stance regarding the Polish border.

"Uncertainty or a lack of obligation in this question hinders the unification of Germany," Genscher said in an interview with the Augsburg Allgemeine Zeitung.

He said both countries should issue declarations rejecting claims to Polish territory after East Germany's election on March 18.

"They could each do that separately and then later for all of

Germany," Genscher said, looking forward to the expected unification.

Thatcher: Unification moves in right direction

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said Friday that moves by Europe to adjust to German unification were "going in the right direction."

"We are at the stage where we know what questions to ask," said Thatcher, speaking at a news conference with Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti, who was making a one-day visit to London.

Thatcher was referring to an agreement this month for the four World War II allied powers and the two Germanys to agree on the external arrangements for unification, and for it to be considered jointly at a 35-nation East-West summit later this year.

Andreotti said he agreed with Thatcher's approach of seeking to keep the issue "within the framework of problems confronting NATO and the Helsinki Conference (the 35-nation conference on security and cooperation in Europe)."

Thatcher also announced that President Francesco Cossiga of Italy will make a state visit to Britain in October as the guest of Queen Elizabeth II.

U.N. adopts global drug programme

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Reflecting a sense of urgency in the war against drugs, the international community put the narcotics menace high on the world's agenda but failed to say where the money would come from.

After a four-day special session attended by some 50 cabinet-rank ministers, the U.N. General Assembly Friday adopted an ambitious plan designed to tackle every phase of the \$500 billion international drug trade.

"We resolve to protect mankind from the scourge of drug abuse and illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances," the six-page declaration says.

The plan's recommendations to governments and international bodies cover all aspects of the drug trade: cultivation of the coca and poppy fields that provide the raw material for cocaine and heroin, processing, trafficking, demand, money laundering and the rehabilitation of addicts.

The United Nations is envisioned as having a central coordinating role in distributing information, drawing up technical and legal plans and conducting field projects in developing nations.

Nowhere is the cost of the proposals spelled out, though states are asked to consider the possibility of "using forfeited property and proceeds for activities to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking."

But at the moment there are only \$4 million allocated in annual U.N. budget, plus another \$65-70 million a year in voluntary contributions for the U.N. Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFAC), which does field work.

"Like most of you I was struck by the limited resources provided for U.N. agencies involved in these matters," Assembly President Joseph Garba said.

Margaret Anstee, the British under-secretary general in charge of all U.N. drug activities, told a news conference the world body did not have enough funds to fulfil its current mandates on drug projects.

Forthcoming discussions in U.N. financial bodies "will be extremely important and for my money an indication of whether we really are being serious about this fight and the pivotal role of the United Nations," she said.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Students beaten, arrested in Ivory Coast

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP) — About 200 student protesters demanding government reform ended a sit-in at the capital's Roman Catholic cathedral early Saturday, but were later detained and beaten by police. After the students came out of St. Paul's Cathedral, where they had been holed up for 10 hours, they were herded into police trucks and taken to the city's main police station. As the students emerged from the trucks, police could be seen beating them with truncheons. The students' cries filled the air. The students had begun their occupation of the cathedral Friday afternoon at about 3 p.m. (1500 GMT), the latest in a weeklong series of demonstrations against President Felix Houphouët-Boigny's conservative government.

Boat people attack screening process

HONG KONG (R) — A group of Vietnamese boat people who face deportation from Hong Kong mounted a high court battle Saturday which could delay or even halt the policy of forcible repatriation. Nguyen Ho, 30, launched the attack by challenging Hong Kong's screening process that bestows refugee status on a few and declares the majority to be illegal immigrants, his solicitor Robin Bridge said. Those screened out as illegal immigrants are kept in detention centres until the British Colony sends them back to Vietnam, against their will if necessary.

11 U.S. soldiers dead in 2 crashes

PANAMA CITY (R) — Eleven U.S. soldiers were killed in two U.S. army helicopter crashes in bad weather earlier this week, the U.S. Southern Command has said. Searchers found the second of the two helicopters Friday and all nine men on board the UH-1H Huey were dead, the Southern Command said. The first, an OH-58 observation helicopter, was found Thursday with both men aboard killed. "We don't have any indication it was anything other than the weather," a Southern Command spokesman said. The aircraft encountered thunderstorms while on a training mission Wednesday near Punta Diego, 80 kilometres southwest of the Atlantic Port city of Colon.

Smoking ban begins on U.S. flights

WASHINGTON (R) — Smoking will be banned on virtually all U.S. domestic airline flights beginning Sunday when a law passed by Congress last year goes into effect. The law bars smoking on all flights of under six hours within the United States, including Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Smoking will be allowed only on flights between Hawaii or Alaska and the other 48 states that are six hours or longer — about two dozen out of nearly 18,000 daily domestic flights. Some of these flights will also be made non-smoking runs by the airlines that fly them. The law does not apply to international routes but many U.S. airlines are voluntarily extending the smoking ban on flights between the United States and Canada, Mexico, Bermuda and the Caribbean. Flights within Canada are already smoke-free. Foreign airlines will have to follow the no-smoking rule on any of their flights between U.S. cities.

Anne tours Senegal refugee camps

BAKEL, Senegal (R) — Britain's Princess Anne, braving a sandstorm and stifling heat, briefly shared the plight of refugees in camps in northern Senegal bordering Mauritania. The princess listened to the stories of some of the 50,000 Mauritians who fled or were driven out of their country last year following ethnic riots in both West African nations. Senegal and mostly-Arab Mauritania severed diplomatic links in August after a border dispute stirred communal violence and a mass exodus of refugees across the River Senegal which forms their border. The 39-year-old princess is visiting West Africa as president of the London-based charity Save the Children Fund.

Bulgaria to abolish party organisations at workplace

SOFIA, Bulgaria (AP) — The Communist Party leadership has agreed to abolish party organisations in the workplace, a key demand of the democratic opposition, informed sources said Saturday.

At a closed-door meeting late Friday, the supreme council of the party proposed that the measure should be included in a new law on parties, sources in Sofia said.

The law is expected to be adopted at a session of the National Assembly, which begins on March 5, the sources said.

Talks between the Communists and the opposition, including the Union of Democratic Forces (UDF) and other political and social groups, were suspended on Feb. 12 because of a controversy over the party cells and other political demands.

The Communists' agreement in principle to give up their organisation in factories, enterprises and administrative units was welcomed by opposition representatives as a positive step.

"It is a good sign because the Communist Party understands that they must do something" to show their commitment to democratisation, said Alexander Karakachanov, a UDF member and president of the Bulgarian Greens.

Mandela faces leadership test over Natal violence

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela faces the biggest test of his leadership since release from life imprisonment when he tries Sunday to end a bloody inter-black feud in south Africa's Natal province.

Mandela, figurehead of the African National Congress (ANC), will also attempt to forge unity among anti-apartheid groups ahead of negotiations with the white minority government on a post-apartheid South Africa. "Mandela's reputation for statesmanship and non-sectarian breadth of vision will be tested to the full tomorrow," commented the Star, the country's largest daily newspaper.

Mandela's speech at a rally in the Natal port city of Durban will be his second major address since being freed 13 days ago. It will deal with an 11-year-old rift between the two largest groups representing voteless blacks — the ANC and the Zulu Inkatha Movement.

"The most challenging task facing the leadership today is that of unity," Mandela said in a recent letter to Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

"I consider it a serious indictment against all of us that we are still unable to combine forces to stop the slaughter of so many innocent lives."

Buthelezi says he and Mandela have remained friends despite the rift and welcomes his trip to Natal, home of the country's six

million Zulus.

"Let our tribute to him (Mandela) be the tribute he would most want — the tribute of black unity," Buthelezi said this week.

Both Inkatha, a powerful organisation supported by traditional Zulus and favoured by big business, and the UDF, denounced by Pretoria as a Communist front, want to end apartheid but differ on tactics.

"Whether we're friends or foes, we are compelled to cooperate with each other in attempting to solve the problem," Mandela told the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Friday.

He said the fighting was worsened by the involvement of criminals and what he called police intervention on the side of Inkatha — features of the unrest repeatedly confirmed by independent church investigations. Police deny the charge.

Mandela is due to address the rally at a Durban Stadium at about 1000 GMT before flying to Bloemfontein in Orange Free States province to address another rally.

On Tuesday Mandela flies to Zambia to meet the ANC's exiled leadership at its Lusaka headquarters and leaders of the Commonwealth and frontline states confronting South Africa.

Meanwhile Britain came under fire for relaxing sanctions against South Africa to reward the white minority government for its reforms and the release of Mandela.

Moscow prepares for new 'October Revolution'

MOSCOW (R) — Seventy-three years after the February Revolution brought down the tsars, Soviet authorities braced for a new surge of political activism unleashed by Kremlin reformers.

Big pro-reform rallies are planned for Sunday in cities and towns across the Soviet Union's three most important republics, including the giant Russian Federation.

Several old-line Communist Party leaders are expected to be swept from office in polls set for March 4 in Russia, the Ukraine and Byelorussia.

Adding to the pressure on the Kremlin, Lithuanians went to the polls Saturday to elect a parliament expected to move swiftly to restore the republic's pre-war independence.

And a large bloc of Latvian Communists opened a conference to study a possible break with Moscow and formation of a new party.

Activists have already dubbed their big pro-reform campaign "the February 1990 revolution," a reference to the upheaval that brought a short-lived reformist government to power 73 years ago.

But it was clear that even official backers of President and party leader Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms were alarmed over the accelerating grass-roots campaign for change.

The latest sign came in an appeal from the Council of Ministers, calling on security organs to take "necessary measures to preserve order."

The statement, published on the front pages of the central newspaper Saturday, also appealed to progressive forces not to disrupt the "normal working rhythm of the country."

Organisers have predicted half a million people will take part in the Moscow rally, with thousands more elsewhere.

The military newspaper Krasnaya Zvezda said Saturday militia and interior ministry troops were patrolling the capital, with others held in reserve for rapid deployment.

On Friday, Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhakov warned the nation the authorities would crack down hard on any troublemakers at the demonstrations — called to support pro-reform candidates in the coming polls.

"I think every person, every citizen in our country should stop for a moment and consider what is really happening here," Ryzhakov said in a televised appeal.

"In the wave of transformation sweeping across our country, we must learn to distinguish between what is positive and what is merely destructive."

Meanwhile, voters in Lithuania went to the polls Saturday to elect a local parliament expected to lead the once-independent republic back to statehood.

The Soviet News Agency (TASS) said voters were choosing from among 473 candidates for 141 seats in the republic's parliament.

COLUMN

Charles chuckles over charge of 'architect-bashing'

WASHINGTON (R) — Britain's Prince Charles joked about his reputation as an "architect-basher" at an architecture gala, but got serious when it came to defending his plea for more traditional buildings. "I read in the newspapers... that architects were queuing up to be bashed by the prince — apparently architect-bashing is my second favourite sport to polo," he told 1,200 guests at the American Institute of Architects awards ceremony in Washington. An untutored but highly vocal critic of post-war architecture, the Prince of Wales renewed his call for a return to tradition. "I understand all the arguments about being contemporary and about the need to reflect the spirit of the age, but what alarms me is that the age has no spirit," he said. Architects and others had clamoured to attend the Washington gala. Tickets sold out a month ago and 800 people were on a waiting list for the \$250-a-plate dinner in the newly restored National Building Museum.

Global weather

(major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	Weather
AMSTERDAM	07	14	57° Clear
ATHENS	08	15	58° Clear
BANGKOK	23	33	91° Clear
BEIJING	05	18	50° Clear
BOMBAY	23	33	91° Clear
BRAZILIA	08	18	50° Clear
CHICAGO	03	28	38° Clear
COPENHAGEN	06	14	57° Cloudy
FRANKFURT	01	14	55° Clear
GENEVA	01	14	55° Clear
HONG KONG	12	24	55° Rain
ISTANBUL	01	14	55° Cloudy
LONDON	13	15	54° Cloudy
LOS ANGELES	13	26	55° Clear
MADRID	07	18	63° Clear
MELBOURNE	08	18	63° Clear
MOSCOW	00	32	32° Snow
MUMBAI	M	M	M
NEW DELHI	13	26	78° Rain
NEW YORK	12	24	55° Clear
PARIS	08	18	63° Clear
ROME	08	18	63° Clear
SEATTLE	03	28	38° Clear
SYDNEY	23	33	91° Rain
TOKYO	10	20	68° Cloudy
VIENNA	M	M	M

M — indicates missing information.

THE Sunday Crossword

Edited by Herb Ertman

KID STUFF

By Dorothy B. Martin

- ACROSS
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